

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1432
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION designating the Tennessee Army National Guard Armory in Lenoir City in honor of the late Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy, Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Staff Sergeant Stephen Kennedy of Lenoir City's Company D, 1st Squadron of the 278th Regimental Combat Team, lost his life in pursuit of freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2005, he was fatally wounded while on patrol near Balad Ruz, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Staff Sergeant Kennedy did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people from the chains of injustice; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Kennedy served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and, for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Kennedy's dedication to excellence and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history, and such dedication deserves proper recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Lenoir City is hereby designated as the "Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy National Guard Armory" in recognition of the life of valor and death in military action of the late Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy, Tennessee Army National Guard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "Staff Sergeant Stephen Curtis Kennedy National Guard Armory."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.